

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2020



KEEPING IT CLEAN: When Georgia and Billy Les aren't maintaining the flow of the dining room or monitoring orders from the kitchen, the Les Brothers Cafe duo are wiping down hard surfaces and guaranteeing hand sanitizers are filled. Such is the life of restaurateurs in the days of COVID-19. [Josh Carlascio photos]

Businesses getting back on track as Hoosiers urged to 'Mask Up'

Throughout Highland, hundreds of merchants are donning masks, flinging open their doors and inviting customers to browse and buy.

As the state's reopening strategy evolves, Verginiya Burgess is tweaking how she and her staff manage The Green Witch Cafe.

While still offering their very own take on tasty delights alongside their signature juices, smoothies and coffees, Burgess has reduced the number of dine-in tables and opened the outdoor patio. Curbside carryouts will remain part of the routine.

At The Tasty Olive in Porte De L'eau Plaza, shoppers are returning to the store that

features extra virgin olive oils, balsamic vinegars and more. Staff handle tasting equipment and masks are routine. Online and phone ordering with curbside pickup will continue for the foreseeable future.

Town Council President Mark Schocke is encouraging residents to get out as they feel comfortable, wear masks, keep safe, social distancing — and support local businesses.

"I am proud to see our local merchants keeping people safe while working to keep their businesses open," he said.

"I encourage everyone to shop Highland and join the governor's #MaskUpHoosiers campaign."

[DOWNTOWN]

Looking for pampering to ease the pandemic panic? Destress at Espa Day Spa or get a new do at Muse Parlor. While you're downtown, find a vintage novel to lose yourself in at Miles Books or channel your inner creativity at Hoosier Highlander.

[HIGHLAND GROVE]

From Michaels to Marshalls, stores that closed in March have reopened. Employees wear masks and other protective gear. Stores have special hours for older and pregnant residents as well as those with underlying health conditions. Curbside pickup is available: Just ask.

[PORTE DE L'EAU]

If pandemic pounds have you thinking about firming the abs, strengthening, toning or just getting your Zen back, Priority Fitness Personal Training and Yoga on 45th have just the ticket. In addition to salons and restaurants, the shops at Porte De L'eau are easy to browse.

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[2020 CENSUS]

The Census Bureau is sending final reminders July 22-29 to those who have not submitted their information. Residents are urged to respond before August 11, when census workers will begin to visit households nationwide. For those who do not want an in-person visit this summer or fall, it is important to respond by phone, mail or online as soon as possible. Questions? Email Highland's Complete Count Committee at lryskamp@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

MARK SCHOCKE
mschocke@highland.in.gov
(219) 207-2075



WARD 4

TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301.2077



WARD 5

ROGER SHEEMAN
rsheeman@highland.in.gov
(630) 673-3363



CLERK-TREASURER

MICHAEL GRIFFIN
mgriffin@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-1080

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321



Highland florist celebrates 50 years of business

Jerry Brumm and his wife Nancy were born entrepreneurs.

Fifty years ago, they spotted a building on 45th at Spring Street, pooled the \$10,000 they had between them to purchase inventory and Brumm's Bloomin' Barn was born.

"We both quit what we were doing to start the store, which is a combination flower and gift shop," Brumm said. "That first day we had 10 people waiting at the door. It was a really good day."

Over the years the inventory changed

from macrame planters, incense and paper dresses to tasty edibles, Yankee Candles and the ever-popular Christmas shop. What never changed: The couple's focus on flowers, which still makes up a majority of the business.

"It was exciting to build the place from scratch," Brumm said. "We used to sleep outside in the tent while the kids slept inside flower boxes in the store during the tent sale. Fifty years has gone by so quickly. In many ways, it feels like only yesterday."

INFO: Join us July 8-11 for our 50th Anniversary Sale. For more about Brumm's and delivery services during COVID-19, visit brummsflowers.com or call (219) 924-1000.

Town government cautious with reopening plans

Town government is straddling the governor's reopening plan in a way that works best for Highland.

While most departments remain in Phase 4, Parks and Recreation is planning for events in mid- to late-July that will involve larger crowds consistent with Phase 4.5.

"COVID-19 cases are up statewide. We will continue exercising an abundance of caution in keeping with the governor's July 1 directive," Town

Council President Mark Schocke said. "It is incredible to see how quickly the situation with this virus is changing. You can help by wearing a mask."

Here's what to expect when you visit town buildings:

All residents are **REQUIRED** to wear masks, make an appointment for additional services and wait until called inside. Residents are encouraged to continue to pay utility bills online or via drop box.

[RETIREMENT MILESTONE]



Over the years, John Bach (top left) has worked closely with other department heads, many of whom hold the same position today: Front row: Police Chief Pete Hojnicky and Fire Chief Bill Timmer. Back row: Former Police Det. Lt. Ken Balon, Park Superintendent Alex Brown and Building Commissioner Ken Mika.



Longest-serving Public Works Director retires after 48 years of public service

On the eve of his retirement, Public Works Director John Bach said landing a job as a Highland garbage man fresh out of high school changed his life.

As he headed to college, the 18-year-old had a plan — to get the education he would need to run a multi-faceted municipal department of his own. And he's done that for the last 48 years — 46 of which he spent in Highland.

From employees who hold him in the highest esteem to officials like Councilman Mark Herak and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin who worked alongside Bach for decades, the departure of the longest-serving leader in town is

already having an impact.

“John is one of those guys who worked himself up through the ranks to lead all three departments that are part of Public Works — streets, sewer and water,” Griffin said. “John has the perfect blend of integrity and character that married perfectly with his love for his hometown. He is my friend, as well as a department head, I worked closely with. I will miss him.”

Council President Mark Schocke said Griffin is not alone.

“Highland has been in good hands with John at the helm,” Schocke said. “He is leaving gigantic shoes to fill.”



[CA

1972: Joins the Highland workforce on June 5.

1977: Moves into supervisory roles, leading maintenance, street and water/sewer divisions.

1987: Upon graduating from Purdue University Calumet, serves as the town's first and only assistant town engineer.

1989: Accepts the invitation to serve as the Public Works Director in the Town of Griffith.

1991: Becomes the third Public Works Director of the Town of Highland



2020: Announces his intention to retire as Public Works Director, delaying the actual date because of the COVID-19 crisis. Concludes his service on June 30.

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[BACK ON TRACK STAGE 4.5]

Highland and communities throughout the state will be in Stage 4.5 from July 4 to July 17. Here's a look at guidelines for all Hoosiers:

- Hoosiers 65 and older and those with known high-risk medical conditions should adhere to social distancing guidelines and remain cautious at work and in their communities.
- Continue remote work as needed.
- Face coverings are highly recommended.
- Social gatherings up to 250 people may take place following the CDC social distancing guidelines.
- Outdoor nursing home and assisted living visitation must resume July 4 following guidelines.
- Indoor nursing home and assisted living visitation may resume July 4. Facilities must have a plan for indoor visitation by Stage 5.
- Hospital visitations encouraged with precautions.

STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS THAT CONTINUE

- Dining room food service may operate at up to 75% capacity as long as social distancing is observed.
- Bars and nightclubs may operate at 50% capacity adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Venues, movie theaters, bowling alleys, as well as cultural, entertainment and tourism sites may operate at 50% capacity while social distancing.
- Amusement parks, water parks and like facilities may operate at 50% capacity. Reservations are urged to limit the number of people at any one time.
- Gyms, fitness centers and other workout facilities continue operations with restrictions.
- Personal services continue with restrictions.

WHAT OPENS IN STAGE 4.5

- Parimutuel horse racing as well as county and state fair racing may begin with 50% spectator capacity.
- Fairs, festivals and other similar outdoor events may open with restrictions.
- Youth overnight camps may open.
- Conventions may resume following state guideline. Masks are highly recommended for all participants.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Gov. Eric Holcomb will continue monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and update reopening plans on July 17. Visit highland.in.gov for the latest updates.

[HIGHLAND PARKS & RECREATION]

Day Camp has resumed with modifications. Playgrounds are open. Basketball tournaments may be held with spectators adhering to social distancing. Concerts and movies resume at Main Square Park.

SUMMER CAMP



“Highland Parks & Recreation is so excited for Summer Camp this year,” Recreation Supervisor Alyce Van Drunen said. “Camp Director Cole Linkiewicz and our experienced counselors do a great job keeping campers engaged every day in a variety of crafts, games and activities.” The camp is open to children ages 5-12. Weekly camp is held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until August 9. Registration is open to all seeking weekly enrollment. **INFO:** Email Alyce Van Drunen at avandrunen@highland.in.gov.

SECOND SUNDAYS AT MAIN SQUARE PARK

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park for live afternoon entertainment. Acoustic performances are from noon to 1:15 p.m. and headliners perform from 1:30-3 p.m. Here's the lineup:

July 12 Andy Sutton Jazz Trio | IPA Polka Band
August 9 Nawty Lite | Soundz of Santana

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us at dusk July 10 for an evening in the park to watch “Toy Story 4” on the big screen. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, we'll move to the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Parks & Recreation programs or any of these events, call (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandparks.org.